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Schools Deny Cloak-Dagger Pressure

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What should be the policy of a university regarding government support for classified projects?

Though not specifically a factor in the current Central Intelligence Agency-National Student Assn. expose, this latter question has long troubled academic institutions, and they have responded in widely divergent ways.

Here are the policies of Harvard and Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Both these institutions turned over virtually all their research potential to war efforts during World War II and each made historic contributions — Harvard to the Manhattan Project in the development of atomic power and M.I.T. to the development and use of radar.

Harvard's move from classified research began in 1946, when Pres. James Conant announced in his annual report

that the university was involved in 23 government research contracts, all nonmilitary, none confidential or secret.

He said the projects were not to be confused with wartime efforts "conducted behind closed doors."

In 1951 Conant said the presidents of the major universities had outlined a policy where "only in a few special instances is it necessary to call on the universities to establish secret laboratories and recruit scientists from other institutions on a large scale." He said no secret work was going on at Harvard then "aside from a considerable study which the Harvard Business School is undertaking for the Defense Department."

The next year Conant set down the policy line that has held to this day: "To date we have taken on no such research work, and there has been little pressure from any

government agency for us to do so," although "during the war years, of course, we were conducting secret war research on a vast scale.

"I had hoped that after World War II other universities of the United States might be spared the burden of secret or confidential research, for secrecy and the pursuit of knowledge for its own sake are uneasy bedfellows." (By this time the Harvard Business School project was completed.)

M.I.T. followed a different course. A spokesman said, "M.I.T. accepts classified research when the government indicates a great need for the research."

Secret government work is a major factor in the viability of M.I.T. today. Through its special facilities, mainly the Instrumentation Laboratory and Lincoln Laboratory in Lexington, M.I.T. spends almost \$94 million a year in Federal funds, largely for confidential or secret research.

The efforts undertaken at M.I.T. should not be confused with any involvement of the CIA in programs that have effect in foreign countries. M.I.T.'s Center for International Studies did have CIA support for several years but dropped it in 1965 rather than be suspected of being a servant of government will.

The millions in government dollars spent at M.I.T. are not secret dollars. They are accounted for in the defense budget and are spent largely on space projects and missile and guidance system work.

But the projects supported by the Federal investment are secret, although an M.I.T. official pointed out that newsmen were welcome to tour the facilities, and the institute expects to continue this kind of work from which it derives more than half its operational budget.

As it stands now, no researcher working within Harvard may accept a government project unless the individual scholar is "free to decide whether to publish or not and must have the right to do so."

Pusey said Harvard does not intend to engage in classified research again, "except in times of grave national emergency."

He added, "This policy does not preclude the participation of faculty members as individual consultants in classified work."

The policy with regard to work carried on privately by university personnel came into question Monday when it was revealed that an organization headed by a Harvard administrator received funds from a foundation close to the CIA.

State House records show that the Fund for International Social and Economic Education, headed by Asst. Dean Richard Hunt of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, received \$25,000 in 1965 from the J. Frederick Brown Foundation of Boston.

The foundation has been identified by spokesmen for the N.S.A. as being a channel for CIA funds.

There was no evidence, however, that CIA funds were among those contributed by the foundation to Hunt's group.

Both Hunt and George Cabot Lodge, another trustee of the fund, declared Monday that they had no knowledge of receiving CIA funds directly or indirectly.

Hunt said that, while he is not at liberty to disclose the nature of all the fund's activities in Latin America, "I feel that I'm in control of the projects and the other trustees feel the same way. We are responsible to no one but ourselves."

Harvard's opposition to classified research was carried over by Pres. Nathan Pusey, who said in his 1960-61 report, "Research that cannot be published immediately seems incompatible with the university's basic purpose to seek and disseminate knowledge."

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